

A MESSAGE FROM . . .



TIMOTHY C. BOYCE
State Forester

The Farm Bill is a legislative vehicle through which federal programs are created or changed to promote and facilitate the sustainable management of private forestland. The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) has established the following guiding principals to help shape and guide the next generation of forestry and conservation programs.

- ☞ Meeting the goal of sustainable forestry is best achieved through a Forestry Title.
- ☞ Maintaining working forests is a top priority.
- ☞ Program implementation should focus on state priorities and targeted implementation.
- ☞ Farm Bill programs should leverage private sector support.
- ☞ Landscape scale implementation of programs aids success.
- ☞ Program accomplishments and outcomes should be clearly defined and demonstrated.
- ☞ Strengthen the role of forestry in conservation programs.

Several of our state programs receive funding through the Farm Bill. They are: Stewardship, Legacy, Urban Forestry, Community Fire Assistance and Forest Land Enhancement Program.

Two-thirds of our nation's forestland is owned by private landowners (78 percent in Alabama). Private forests supply two-thirds of the nation's drinking water and over 60 percent of the nation's wood fiber. It is imperative that the 2007 Farm Bill be a tool to provide assistance to landowners so that they can best manage their land for the benefit of us all. ☞